

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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AGR-20 RSR-01 /163 W

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R 020550Z JUL 73 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7028

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USINT CAIRO

UNCLAS KUWAIT 2304

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

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SUBJ: KUWAIT AND UAE SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

REF: KUWAIT 2218

SUMMARY: KUWAIT AND UAE SIGNED ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL, HEALTH, CULTURAL AND INFORMATION COOPERATION AGREEMENTS ON JUNE 30 AS FOLLOWUP TO KUWAIT FONMIN GULF TRIP JUNE 3-11. END SUMMARY

1. KUWAIT FONMIN SABAH AL-AHMAD AND UAE FONMIN AHMAD AL-SWEIDI SIGNED FOUR SEPARATE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL, HEALTH, CULTURAL AND INFORMATION COOPERATION AGREEMENTS IN KUWAIT ON JUNE 30, FOLLOWING TWO DAYS OF DISCUSSIONS.

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2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, AGREEMENTS PROVIDED FOR INCREASED EXCHANGES OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT UNDER GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES, COORDINATION IN COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES, AND FREE TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE, LIVESTOCK AND MANUFACTURED GOODS.

3. A KUWAITI OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN CALLED THE NEW AGREEMENT "AN ESSENTIAL STEP TOWARD ESTABLISHING AN ECONOMIC ENTITY IN THE AREA." THE UAE FONMIN ALSO SAID THAT THE AGREEMENTS WERE "A CORNERSTONE FOR FRUITFUL COOPERATION FOR WHICH WE ARE STRUGGLING."

4. COMMENT: THE KUWAIT-UAE AGREEMENT FOLLOWS BY 11 DAS A SIMILAR SERIES OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN KUWAIT AND BAHRAIN (FEFTEL. THE LATTER AGREEMENT, REFLECTING LONG ESTABLISHED CLOSE TIES, APPEARS TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE FAR REACHING THAN THE UNDERSTANDING WITH THE UAE. OF PARTICULAR NOTE WAS THE PRESS REPORT OF THE PROVISIO IN THE BAHRAIN AGREEMENT (NOT MENTIONED IN THE UAE ACCORD) ALLOWING CITIZENS OF EACH STATE TO LIVE, WORK OR CARRY OUT BUSINESS IN EITHER STATE. A KUWAITI FONMIN OFFICIAL SAID THAT KUWAIT ALSO EXPECTS THAT QATAR AND OMAN WILL EVENTUALLY SIGN SOME TYPE COOPERATION AGREEMENTS AFTER THEY HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THEM FURTHER.

5. NO TEXT OF THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED YET AVAILABLE BUT THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT THEY PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE CLOSE COOPERATIONS BETWEEN VARIOUS STATES IN FIELDS COVERED. DETAILS OF THIS COOPERATIONS ARE TO BE WORKED OUT BY JOINT COMMITTEES OF THE TWO STATES WHICH WILL MEET TOGETHER FROM TIME TO TIME.
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